

CROFT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR

1947

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the
Croft Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the ANNUAL REPORT for 1947.

SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the Rural District in Acres	19,884
Resident Population	2,122
Number of inhabited houses	667
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£39. 11. 5d.
Rateable value at 1st April 1947...	£9,497

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT

The District is entirely agricultural and therefore as expected its population is mainly engaged in farming.

A large aerodrome was constructed at Dalton during the war, and after some doubts were expressed as to its suitability for use as a civil airport, it was occupied by the Darlington Flying Club.

The vacant huts formally used for housing of service personnel have been occupied by squatters who have mainly come from Darlington and other large towns and still find employment there.

STATISTICS

BIRTHS AND DEATH RATE.

The number of live births in the district was 48 as against 33 in the previous year.

The sex and legitimacy classification is drawn thus:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	26	18	44
Illegitimate	1	3	4

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 22.66, as compared with a rate of 15.76 last year. The rate for England and Wales is 20.50.

STILL BIRTHS

Male	Female	Total
2	0	2

The rate per 1,000 of the population is .942, the average for England and Wales being .5 per 1,000.

MATERNAL MORALITY

There was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of childbirth out of a total of 50 registered births (48 livebirths and 2 stillbirths).

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INFANTILE MORTALITY

There was one death of an infant under one year of age giving an infantile mortality rate of 20.83 as compared with a rate of 60.60 last year. The rate for England and Wales is 41.00

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE

During 1947 there were 22 deaths, 13 males and 9 females. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 10.37 compared with 12.41 for last year and a rate of 12.00 for England and Wales.

<u>Table Showing Causes of Death</u>	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	0
Cancer	1	1
Diabetes	1	0
Heart Disease	3	3
Bronchitis	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0
Ulcer of the stomach or Duodenum	1	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	0	1
Appendicitis	0	1
Other Digestive disorders	2	0
Nephritis	1	1
Congenital Malformation, Infantile Diseases	1	0
Other Causes	1	1
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Total:-	13	9

NOTIFICABLE DISEASES

	Males	Females	Total
Measles	3	3	6
Scarlet Fever	3	9	12
Erysipelas	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Chicken Pox	12	10	22
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	20	22	42

There were no deaths due to infectious disease.

CASES MOVED TO HOSPITAL

There were 4 cases removed to hospital.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Immunisation of children against Diphtheria is proceeding fairly satisfactory, the fact that there have been no cases perhaps explains some lack of interest in, and occasionally objection to, immunisation.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 2 cases of pulmonary and no cases of non pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non Pulmonary</u>
Male	2	0
Female	0	0

One death (male) was registered as due to pulmonary tuberculosis.

SUMMARY OF NURSING, HOSPITAL, & AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Nursing, Hospitals and other Institutes in the District:-

- (a) By arrangement with Darlington Fever Hospital
- (b) The District Nursing Associations, supported by local subscriptions.

There are no clinics or treatment centres in the district. Cases of Venereal Disease are treated at the Darlington Corporation Clinic.

HOSPITALS

These are provided or subsidised by the Local Authority and by the County Council.

- (1) Tuberculosis - Aysgarth Sanatorium, Fenton Lodge, York.
- (2) Maternity - The County Council has made arrangements for the admission of difficult or dangerous confinement cases to Greenbank Municipal Maternity Hospital, subject to the approval of the County Medical Officer. Other confinement cases are admitted on payment.
- (3) Accidents etc. Darlington Memorial Hospital for surgical cases including children.
- (4) Infectious Diseases.- Darlington Fever Hospital by arrangement.
- (5) Ambulances.
 - (1) For infectious diseases - Darlington Fever Hospital Ambulance.
 - (2) For accident and other cases - Darlington Corporation Ambulance Service, Darlington Memorial Hospital Ambulance Service.

B. There are no stand pipes on any of the public main supplies.

Improvements

A Start was made by the Tees Valley Water Board in June on the new 6" water main from Piercebridge (Darlington Rural District Council) through Cliffe, Manfield, Cleasby, Stapleton to Croft. The estimated cost of this main is £12,289 an estimated grant, to be provisionally payable by the Ministry of Health under the Rural Water Supplies Act 1944 amounting to £2,600 and by the County Council £2,600 leaving £7,089 to be borne by the Council amounting to £.....1/9 rate (over a period of approximately 12 years).

Proposed Schemes (Water Supply and Sewage Act).

Schemes for the supply of water to Dalton were considered by the Council when it was agreed that a bulk supply be taken from the Tees Valley Water Board mains at Croft for distribution in this village. The estimated cost for this scheme was £4,006.

II Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

The villages of Barton and Stapleton have sewage and sewage disposal works, the remaining villages are serviced by surface water sewers. However, as previously indicated the two villages of Barton and Croft are the only ones with a mains water supply and therefore no serious nuisance has occurred except at Croft where pollution of the Tees was evident. The nuisance became more apparent when the mill race into which the sewer discharges fell into disuse (mill race discharges into the Tees). In the remainder of the villages the surface water sewers take only waste water from sinks and where there are no tanks they discharge into ditches well away from any dwelling houses.

Proposed Schemes.

Details of schemes for villages of Croft, Dalton, Manfield, Cleasby and Stapleton were called for by the Council and for this purpose the services of Mr. L. Brooksbank, Consultant Engineer at Bradford were engaged.

Rivers & Streams (Rivers P. Prevention Act)

River Tees The Councils attention was drawn to the pollution of the river at Croft by sewage from the Council's Surface Water Sewer.

Barton Beck Some pollution of the beck was noted due to the condition of the Barton Sewage Works.

Closet Accommodation

During the year 3 ashclosets and privies were converted into W.Cs. The Council do not pay any grant towards the cost of such conversions.

Public Cleansing.

No regular collection is made in the Rural District except at Croft when scavenging - carried out approximately once every month. In the remaining villages and scattered hamlets refuse is removed by the inhabitants onto village dumps or with night soil buried in their gardens. The

Council do not own any vehicles for the purpose of refuse disposal nor does it employ any sanitary labour; the scavenging at Croft being carried out by arrangement with Darlington Rural District.

The Council have before them a scheme for the proper scavenging of the whole of their district.

Sanitary & General Inspections.

<u>Summary of Inspections</u>	No. of visits	no. of I. Notices	Remedied
Nuisances	15	9	9
Water Supplies	4	-	-
Cowsheds & Dairies	12	-	-
Sewage & Sewerage Disposal	11	-	-
Factories	9	-	-
Inspections under Byelaws (Drain testing etc.)	14	-	-
Council House Inspections	5	-	-
Miscellaneous	16	-	-
Total	86	9	9

In only one case was it found necessary to serve statutory notice. This nuisance was abated within the prescribed period.

Disinfestation. Only one person and premises was notified as being verminous. The person was persuaded to visit a public cleansing station and his house was disinfected.

Schools. No complaints were received of defects in schools in the Rural Area.

SECTION D.

1. General Information. New Dwellings by Private Enterprises Building Licences for the erection of one house was issued by the Council, this house was under construction before the end of the year.

Council Houses.

The erection of 6 houses at Blind Lane and 2 in East View Barton were completed during the year and 8 houses at Croft are nearing completion. Plans were prepared for the erection of 4 houses at Dalton and 6 houses at Manfield.

Temporary Housing.

During the year a steady stream of families continued to squat in the hutments vacated by the Air Ministry and by the end of the year sites were occupied as follows.

Site 1.	29	families
2.	23	"
3.	24	"
4.	15	"
Total	91	

The Council having accepted the requisition of these sites and placed contracts for the adaptation of hutments on Sites 1,2,3 & 4 continued with their policy of making hutments occupied by squatters fit for habitation by authorising their Architect to prepare plans for the carrying out of adaptations on Site 5. On the above mentioned sites except site 5 the occupation consisted of Nissen and Laing huts, the former each being converted into a 3 roomed house and the latter each into two separate dwelling houses comprising 4 and 5 rooms. Each dwelling house is supplied with sanitary accommodation (No more than 2 families sharing one convenience) a sink and tap connected to main water, drainage and electric light.

The provision of sanitary accommodation and of water supply and electric light has meant the carrying out of maintenance work in connection with Ex. W.D. Sewerage and Sewage works, water mains and reservoir and electricity distribution services.

Civil Building Licensing.

The Council as licensing authority was authorised to issue licences for building works costing £10 and under £100, and over a £100 for conversions or adaptation of buildings for additional housing accommodation. During the year 50 licences were issued in connection with housing amounting to £5,463 and 23 licences in connection with other works amounted to £1,443.

Plans under Byelaws.

Following is a list of Plans submitted under the Byelaws during the year

1. New Houses 8 (6 Council houses)
2. Garages, Sheds etc. 4
3. Alterations and additional to houses 6
(including drainage)
4. Agricultural Buildings. 2

Housing Statistics.

1. Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected	32
2. Number of visits made for this purpose	38
3. Number of dwelling Houses found to be such a state as to be dangerous or unfit for habitation.	3
4. Number of Dwelling Houses requiring repairs	22
5. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be overcrowded.	NIL

E. Inspection & Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. Owing to shortage of staff and pressure of work in the department we have been unable to carry out any routine visits of cowsheds and drains. However any application for new registration, change of cowkeeper

or a designated milk supply is dealt with by a special visit. All complaints from the Milk Advisory Council are similarly dealt with so that every effort is made to keep a high standard for the production of milk.

The total number of registered premises is 64. This includes 4 producers of Tuberculin Tested and 3 of accredited milk.

The total number of cowsheds and dairies inspected during the year was 12.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

There is only 1 registered slaughter house in the area which is out of use as under the Government Scheme centralised slaughtering is carried out in the Crown Slaughter House, Darlington.

No complaints have been received from butchers or shopkeepers re unfit food.

F. Miscellaneous.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

No serious complaint of infection has been received during the year.

Petroleum Regs Act, 1919.

2 new and 3 renewal applications for licences to keep petroluem spirit were received during the year and all licences were issued accordingly.

Factories Act 1937.

The record of work done under the above act is as follows:-

Inspections for purposes as to health (including inspections by Sanitary Inspector).

	No. on register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers presecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,5,6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	5	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Sect. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	4	4	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

During the year no defects were found.

Outwork.

There were no outworkers in the district during 1947.

Sgd.) A. F. T., OMD.

Medical Officer of Health.